

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. By the above amendment, the specification and claims have been amended to place it in better form for examination. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

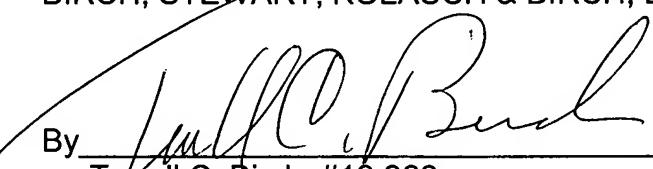
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

R.W.
TCB/RWD/lab
1248-0716PUS1

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000